

Message Text

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42

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01 L-02 H-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 SSO-00

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R 171000Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3356

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABIDJAN 4167

PLEASE PASS TO TREASURY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUSHNELL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, AFDB

SUBJECT: AFDB/AFDF ANNUAL MEETING

REF: A) STATE 103159; B) DAKAR 2673; C) DAKAR 2707

1. BY NOW YOU WILL HAVE RECEIVED REFTELS B AND C AND TALKED WITH ALICE DRESS ABOUT DAKAR MEETING AND THE STATUS OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. OUR OBSERVER ROLE WAS EASY TO PLAY. NO PUBLIC REFERENCES WERE MADE TO THE ABSENCE OF THE U.S. FROM MEMBERSHIP AND NO DISCUSSIONS OCCURRED CONCERNING TERMS OF U.S. MEMBERSHIP. NEVERTHELESS, IN THE CORRIDORS THE MANY AFRICAN MINISTERS OF FINANCE WHOM I HAVE KNOWN OVER THE YEARS ASKED WHEN WE WERE GOING TO JOIN AND ENCOURAGED OUR MEMBERSHIP. MANY SAID THAT IT LOOKED STRANGE INDEED FOR US STILL TO BE AN OBSERVER.

2. DURING VISIT TO ABIDJAN OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS NATHANIEL DAVIS HE AND I PAID COURTSY CALL ON AFDB LEADERSHIP. HE TOLD THEM OF ADMINISTRATION BILL PROVIDING FOR U.S. MEMBERSHIP AND \$15 MILLION CONTRIBUTION OVER A 3-YEAR PERIOD AND EXPRESSED HIS SINCERE PERSONAL HOPE THAT 1975 WOULD BE THE YEAR THE U.S. BECAME A MEMBER OF THE

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AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND. WHEN AFDB OFFICIALS NOTED THAT

DEVALUATION OF THE DOLLAR WOULD JUSTIFY A LARGER U.S. CONTRIBUTION AND THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FUND HAD SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS, DAVIS REPLIED THAT THE FIRST AND MOST DIFFICULT STEP IS FOR THE U.S. TO JOIN THE FUND. ANY ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED THEREAFTER. THE BANK OFFICIALS FULLY AGREED.

3. THUS IT IS SAFE TO CONCLUDE THAT NO ONE WILL CHALLENGE A U.S. APPLICATION THAT OFFERS ONLY \$15 MILLION.

4. COMMENT: LET ME ONLY ADD MY FERVENT WISH FOR THE SUCCESS OF YOUR EFFORTS WITH CONGRESS IN THE COMING MONTHS..

SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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